LETTERS TO THE EDITOR S-T 3/7/69

Readers Split on Garrison, Editorial

Editor, States-Item:

Congratulations on your editorial regarding the so-called Shaw case.

I didn't think you had the perspicacity, the sense of civic fiber and the courage to speak out.

I salute you!

I. S. AARONSON.

Editor, States-Item:

I heartily applaud your position enunciated in your editorial of March 1 in which you called for the resignation of District Attorney Jim Garrison.

His misdirected use of public money to finance an investigation which has as its only possible usefulness the satisfaction of a perverted ego is inexcusable. Any first-year law student could see that his way of handling the prosecution of the "case" was directed to some end other than its purported one, namely, the proving of a conspiracy.

As a result of this fiasco, Louisiana's image is disgraced in such a way as to make the "scandals of the 40s" and Earl Long's "Mandeville excursion" of the 50s seem pale by comparison.

LEO H. ZIBILICH.

Editor, States-Item:

I hope that occasionally, at least, you will publish an opinion of a reader whose viewpoint on a serious matter happens to differ from your own. Hence, perhaps optimistically, I have taken "pen in hand."

More specifically, I have reference to the editorial appearing on the front page of the States-Item, March 1, in regard to District Attorney Jim Garrison.

In his prosecution of the defendant, Clay Shaw, Mr. Garrison acted in his official capacity, with due authority, according to the dictates of his conscience, following the procedures prescribed by law, which law fully insures the rights of the individual and provides him with the adequate legal tools necessary for his defense.

By what authority do you assume the role of God Almighty, becoming the self-appointed accuser, judge and jury in the persecution (I do not mean prosecution) of Mr. Garrison?

It is frightening that there are those in the news media today who, although taught it is their basic and sacred trust to report the news impartially and fairly, have chosen to disregard their responsibility to the public and will stoop to sometimes unbelievable sensationalisms and contortions of the truth in order to sell a copy, obtain a scoop or, worst of all, attempt to mislead the people intentionally and deliberately, with malice aforethought.

Were I as adept in the selection of malicious statements or as talented in the use of barbed thrusts as the author of your editorial, I wonder if I would be accorded the prominence of a front page editorial also.

If you have any sense of integrity, will you please print my letter? My sole purpose is to demonstrate that, at least, there is not 100 per cent concurrence in your cowardly attack on Mr. Garrison. (Unfortunately, like other private citizens, he has no newspaper facilities at his command enabling him to fight back.) . . .

EUNICE K. ACCARDO.

Editor, States-Item:

Your castigation of Mr. Garrison's high-handed method of conducting the Shaw trial is well-taken. However, no segment of the news media, to my knowledge, has uttered one word of criticism of the three-judge panel which allowed this travesty in the first place.

Two witnesses, a confessed dope addict and Perry Raymond Russo, appeared before these judges. It seems ironical, to say the least, that these intellectual leaders of our judicial system, after hearing these two men tell their fantastic stories, would sanction this costly trial of one of our outstanding citizens. . .

CITIZEN.

Westwego, La.

Editor, States-Item:

Concerning your editorial of March 1 entitled "Garrison Should Resign."

Would it be fair to say that your opinion is that any attorney who loses a case should immediately resign? With so many agencies working against him, I think Mr. Garrison proved his case to a great many people. . .

JEAN CHAUVIN.

Idabel, Okla.

Editor, States-Item:

I followed Mr. Garrison's wild investigations from the beginning. I wondered what would become of this warped investigation. This man needs to be put away before his hallucinations cause any more trouble.

Think of the expense to the taxpayers of this wild dream. How can a person of his condition be elected to such an important position?. . .

MRS. VERNA WILKINSON.

Carefree, Ariz.

Editor, States-Item:

I am heartened to read that you are calling for Mr. Garrison's resignation. It's about time.

It would be nice to have Louisiana back in the U.S.A. Keep up the good work.

JAMES M. REID.

Jackson, Tenn.

Editor, States-Item:

I don't know what is wrong with you, demanding the resig-

nation of Jim Garrison. This is a good man . . . We need more men like this in America . . .

MRS. PATRICIA A. GREENE

Editor, States-Item:

The decision of the jury in the case of Clay Shaw has done much to restore America's confidence in New Orleans, which had become a laughing stock and then a source of mounting horror as Jim Garrison pursued his absurd assassination probe, heedless of the injustices he was perpetrating on Mr. Shaw and many other innocent persons . . .

MARTIN HAYDENHUESHER.

Editor, States-Item:

I feel your recent criticism of Jim Garrison is rather severe. Of course, we all have our own feeling regarding the trial. But I believe he was a man true to his own convictions and acted accordingly . . .

MRS. HERMAN BOUDREAUX.

Editor, States-Item:

Why is so much criticism and condemnation placed on the district attorney and a martyr made out of Mr. Shaw? Since when is a person who has enough character to stand up for justice immediately accused of failing to uphold the duties of his office.

I think it is most unfair for the news media to give such a one-sided view of Mr. Garrison's action in trying to at last bring forth the truth underlying the white-washed facts . . .

America needs more district attorneys like Mr. Garrison who are not afraid to pursue justice even at the price of losing popularlity with the news media.

MRS. J. F. HITZMAN JR.

Editor, States-Item:

In opposition to your editorial requesting Mr. Garrison's resignation, I would like to put forth a few comments. Why single out Jim Garrison? After all, a three-judge panel, as well as a 12-member Grand Jury thought the state's evidence suffinient to bring Mr. Shaw to trial. . . .

Your unprincipled attacks on Mr. Garrison's character are totally without foundation. It seems to me that Orleans Parish should consider itself fortunate to have men of the high caliber of Messrs. Garrison, Alcock and Oser in the district attorney's office.

I pray that they will continue the fight for truth and justice in the face of the combined power of the federal government and their lackeys in the news media.

W. C. FRIEDERICHSEN.